

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A bobbin of plastic comprising:

a cylinder formed integrally with two circumferential end flanges having a one piece injection moulded U-shaped channel,

wherein ~~the each~~ cylinder includes a plurality of cylinder elements each having a ~~slightly curved~~, radially inner surface forming a circumference of the cylinder, and each end flange includes a plurality of spaced-apart, radial flange elements which are distributed along the circumference of the cylinder.

2. (Currently Amended) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which the flange elements over the entire radial extent have a constant extension in ~~a the~~ circumferential direction, the flange elements of each end flange having a total extension in the circumferential direction which is equal to the circumference of the cylinder.

3. (Currently Amended) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which a plurality of axial grooves are formed in ~~an the~~ outer circumferential surface of the cylinder, each groove extending ~~an the~~ entire length of the cylinder between a point between two adjoining flange elements of one end flange and a point between two adjoining flange elements of the other end flange.

4. (Currently Amended) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which a plurality of axial grooves are formed in ~~an the~~ inner circumferential surface of the cylinder, each groove extending ~~an the~~ entire length of the cylinder between a point between two adjoining flange elements of one end flange and a point between two adjoining flange elements of the other end flange.

5. (Currently Amended) A bobbin as claimed in claim 4, in which the plurality of axial grooves in the inner circumferential surface of the cylinder are located opposite to ~~a the~~ plurality of grooves in ~~anthe~~ outer circumferential surface of the cylinder thereof and are wedge-shaped in cross-section.

6. (Currently Amended) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which each flange element ~~at its radially inner end~~ has a lug at a radially inner end of the flange element and the lug ~~which extends past an the~~ inner circumferential surface of the cylinder and has a circumferential extent that decreases radially inwards.

7. (Currently Amended) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which at least one flange element of one end flange ~~at its radially outer end~~ has an articulated projection configured to hook ~~which at its free end is hookable onto~~ the other end flange.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a bobbin of plastic comprising:
injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel, the one piece U-shaped channel having a plurality of cylinder elements ~~with a slightly curved surface~~ and two circumferential end flanges, each of the plurality of cylinder elements has a curved, radially inner surface and each end flange includes a plurality of spaced-apart, radial flange elements;

bending the U-shaped channel; and

~~connecting the ends of the U-shaped channel with each other in a position so the~~ curved, radially inner surface of each cylinder element abuts against two adjacent cylinder elements to form an inner circumference of a cylinder ~~slightly curved surfaces of the plurality~~

~~of cylinder elements form a cylinder and side walls of the U-shaped channel include a plurality of spaced apart wall elements distributed along the length of the channel.~~

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the connecting includes inserting into holes formed in a cylinder element of the U-shaped channel at a first end of the U-shaped channel protrusions formed on a projection at a second end of the U-shaped channel.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel includes forming transverse inner grooves which extend an entire width of the U-shaped channel between a point between two adjoining flange elements of one end flange and a point between ~~wall elements of one side wall~~ and a point between two adjoining flange ~~wall elements of the other end flange~~ side wall.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel includes providing at an end of each flange ~~wall~~ element connected with a cylinder element of the U-shaped channel a lug which extends past the cylinder element and has an extent decreasing in a longitudinal direction of the U-shaped channel, ~~away from the wall element~~, and

the bending the U-shaped channel to form a cylinder includes bending the U-shaped channel until each lug is brought into abutment against a neighbouring lug.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel includes forming transverse outer grooves which extend the entire width of the U-shaped channel between a point between two adjoining

~~flange wall~~ elements of one ~~end flange side wall~~ and a point between two adjoining ~~flange wall~~ elements of the other ~~end flange side wall~~.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A bobbin of plastic comprising:

~~a cylinder including end flanges forming a one-piece~~ injection moulded U-shaped channel,

wherein the U-shaped channel includes a plurality of cylinder elements each having a portion of a base of the U-shaped channel has a slightly curved radially inner surface at the time the U-shaped channel is injection moulded and prior to the U-shaped channel being bent to form a cylinder, so that when the U-shaped channel is bent to form the cylinder, the curved radially inner surface of each cylinder element abuts against two adjacent cylinder elements to form which forms an inner circumference of the cylinder.

15. (New) A bobbin as claimed in claim 14, wherein the U-shaped channel includes two end flanges, each end flange having a plurality of flange elements having a constant extension in a circumferential direction that is equal to the circumference of the cylinder.

16. (New) A bobbin as claimed in claim 14, in which a plurality of axial grooves are formed in a radially outer surface of the U-shaped channel that is an outer circumferential surface of the cylinder, each groove extending an entire length between two adjacent cylinder elements.

17. (New) A bobbin as claimed in claim 14, in which a plurality of axial grooves are formed in a radially inner surface of the U-shaped channel that is an inner circumferential surface of the cylinder, each groove extending an entire length between two adjacent cylinder elements.

18. (New) A bobbin as claimed in claim 17, in which the plurality of axial grooves formed in the radially inner surface of the U-shaped channel are wedge-shaped in cross-section.

19. (New) A bobbin as claimed in claim 15, in which each flange element has a lug at a radially inner end, the lug is shaped to abut an adjacent lug when the U-shaped channel is bent to form the cylinder.

20. (New) A bobbin as claimed in claim 14, in which at least one flange element of one end flange has an articulated projection configured to hook onto the other end flange.

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